



September 23, 2013

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Tracey Braun, M.Sc.
Director, Environmental Approvals Branch
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
123 Main Street, Suite 160 (Box 80)
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1A5

Dear Ms. Braun

Subject TANCO Mine Crown Pillar Mitigation Project: Request for approval of land-based works under Section 13 of the Manitoba Environment Act

As you are aware, there was recently a significant fall of ground (2,500 tonnes) from the roof of the TANCO Mine in March 2013. This follows another fall of ground that occurred in 2010. The fall of ground occurred in an area of the mine that is under Bernic Lake. Cabot promptly commissioned an independent investigation of crown pillar stability at the site of the fall of ground. Internal and external parties are in agreement that the TANCO Mine crown pillar under Bernic Lake will continue to deteriorate and that a failure and potential breach to the surface is probable. A failure of this nature could have significant consequences on the safety of Cabot's employees and the aquatic environment of Bernic Lake.

In August 2013, TANCO formally requested approval of temporary isolation of the lake from the mine (NOA #20). The alteration request is currently under review by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. In order to meet the project goal - dewatering as much water as possible from the lake during the winter (under ice cover)- it is critical that we initiate land-based works to access the Bernic Lake narrows no later than September 30, 2013. Therefore, as per your email dated 15 July 2013, we are requesting approval under Section 13 of the Manitoba Environment Act to initiate this work. The temporary access road and staging area have been planned to make use of existing disturbances and minimize/avoid adverse environmental effects (Figure 2.5, NOA #20). Approximately 0.7 km of the road is an existing road/trail which will require brushing, grading, and widening. The remaining section of road (approximately 0.7 km) is proposed new road that will follow a Manitoba Hydro right of way. The proposed road and staging area are located on land for which TANCO has obtained a surface lease and mineral claim (Figure 2.1, NOA #20). Approval for access to Crown Land is currently under review by Manitoba Lands Branch and the Crown Lands Property Agency.

For your information, I've attached an updated schedule of proposed works that indicates the latest possible date that each activity can be initiated without compromising the project goal of dewatering over the winter.

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As we first discussed in May 2013, it is imperative that, in consultation with the Government of Manitoba, we move forward promptly to mitigate the potential risks associated with the anticipated crown pillar failure. We hope that the land based works will be approved to proceed without delay.

Approved by

CABOT CORPORATION



Nick Cross
Senior Vice President and President,
Advanced Technologies Segment

Crown Pillar Mitigation Schedule - Urgent Activity Start Dates

Activity	Start Date
Temporary Access Road to Narrows	September 30
Temporary Access Road to Bernic Ck	October 28
Temporary Narrows Dike	November 1
Temporary Weir at Bernic Creek .	December 1
Temporary Dewatering of W. Basin	January 1